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UNCLASSIFIED Western Division/TS/NE
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NSC added

## THE ITALIAN POLITICAL CRISIS

The Italian cabinet crisis continues unresolved. Piccioni has abandoned efforts to form a government, reportedly because the Liberals and the Social Democrats and even members of his own party objected to his proposed inclusion of too many "familiar Christian Democratic faces."

If De Gasperi continues unwilling to try again, LEFTWING Christian Democrat Fanfani is likely to be the next premier-designate. Talk of general elections continues.

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